

MANY CHURCHES ARE OVERCROWDED

Not Enough Pews to Accommodate Members of Methodist Congregations.

FACT IS SIGNIFICANT

Characters of All Preachers in Conference Passed on Opening Day.

(BY MAMIE BAYS.)

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Staunton, Va., March 26.—Among the most interesting facts of which mention was made to-day in the opening session of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was that in a number of the churches of the conference there are not pews enough to seat the large congregations that from Sunday to Sunday attend the services. Bishop Kilgo stated that this fact is a significant one, and in his report, particularly at this time, he is being said and written upon the subject of "the empty pews in the churches."

F. J. Prettyman, presiding elder of the Washington District, called attention in his report to the crowded condition of the churches of Southern Methodism in this capital, and this elicited the remarks of Bishop Kilgo.

All Held Blameless. The call of the twenty-second question, "Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?" was begun, and was concluded during the session of to-day. It is probable that this is the first time in the history of this conference that the call of this question has been completed on the first day of the session.

The names of the presiding elders were called first, and when their characters had been passed and their reports had been submitted, the names of the preachers in each district were called rapidly, and each presiding elder answered for all of the preachers in his district. The preachers made no report.

It is a source of gratification to the Baltimore Conference that the affirmative answer was given to this question of reference to every member of the conference, as is the case with every conference when this is the case.

During the call of this question with reference to the members of the conference who sustain the superannuated and the superannuated, Bishop Kilgo called attention to the value of older preachers to the church, and said that the church does not appreciate them as it should, that neither younger preachers nor laymen place sufficient value upon the experience and spiritual leadership of preachers who have grown old in the ministry, and that the church is losing as a result of this lack of appreciation of older preachers.

This afternoon, Rev. Julius Magath, missionary to the Hebrews, addressed the conference in the interest of his work.

Bishop Wilson Preaches. Bishop Wilson preached in the conference church this evening, using as his text the first verse of the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. He emphasized especially the duty of the ministry.

It is probable that Bishop Wilson has the honor of being the oldest preacher engaged in the active work of the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He is seventy-nine years old, and is yet in active work, whereas most preachers in the conference are superannuated at a much younger age. During the course of his sermon this evening he said he was growing less inclined all the time to superannuate, now so long as he is able to preach, even if they are old. He said in this connection: "Men of age from whom the spirit of God radiates, are worth more to the church than when younger. What if they can't speak as well and get around as rapidly as younger men, their experience and spirituality count for more than do speech and haste." He said also that without any spirit of self-exaltation he believed that his preaching now, with his experience of nearly eighty years, is worth more than are the fancies of younger preachers.

Its 120th Session. The conference convened in its one hundred and twenty-ninth annual session in the Methodist church this morning at 9 o'clock.

Bishop John C. Kilgo, of Durham, N. C., who is to preside over the conference session, was in the chair and conducted the devotional service. He read the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles as the scripture lesson upon which he based his remarks. Speaking of the office of the Holy Spirit, he said first that it had always been His office in the scripture lesson upon which he based his remarks. Speaking of the office of the Holy Spirit, he said first that it had always been His office in the scripture lesson upon which he based his remarks.

"The trouble is," he said, "we are trying to run the church to-day on a schedule which includes methods that

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are not from the Holy Spirit and that He does not approve of it. He cited in this connection the great desire of some preachers to get large crowds to their churches and the methods they adopt in order to secure the same. He said that some of these preachers, in order to justify the means they adopt, call attention to the scripture passage which stated that "the children of this world are wiser than the children of light," and claiming this to justify his method to "draw a crowd" to his church, he installs a moving picture show in the basement of the church. Bishop Kilgo condemned this method and other methods similar to it when used as a means of drawing people to the church, and in this connection he said: "Let a mourner be converted at the altar of your church one night, and the next night your church will not hold the crowd of people that will be present. Our fathers preached to large crowds, and the conversion of thousands was one of the causes."

Concluding his remarks, Bishop Kilgo said: "I want no other ministry except that which is directed by the Holy Spirit." At the conclusion of the devotional service, Rev. E. V. Register, D. D., pastor of Mt. Vernon Place Church, Washington, and secretary of the last session of the conference, called the roll of the conference, and a large percent of both clerical and lay members answered to their names.

On motion, Dr. Register was elected secretary of this session of the conference. He named his assistant secretaries and they were elected.

On motion of H. Kern, the bar of the conference was fixed to extend as far as the first window under the gallery of the church.

On motion of D. H. Kern, the hours for meeting and adjournment of the daily sessions of the conference were fixed at 9 A. M. for meeting and 12:30 P. M. for adjournment.

Committees Appointed. Standing committees for this session of the conference were nominated and appointed as follows:

Conference Relations—J. D. Pope, C. B. Sutton, G. T. D. Collins, R. M. Wheeler, J. K. Gilbert, J. R. Andrew and H. L. Myerly.

Administration—W. H. Sanders, W. E. Miller, G. W. Gaither, W. J. Whitesell, C. Sydenstricker, A. Knox, J. M. York, J. C. Thrasher, S. T. Senter, J. H. Schooley, J. H. Bean, G. D. Kidner, C. W. Stump and H. V. Whipple.

Publishing Interests—W. H. Ballenger, L. W. Davis, E. L. Woolf, C. W. Ray, J. H. Haley, T. C. Eden, L. Hammond, A. E. Fultz, D. M. Brown, W. H. Agnew, J. W. Huddleston, A. Lee Barret and J. R. Clary.

Temperance—D. L. Blakemore, James Walker, J. T. Williams, H. K. Field, R. T. Taylor, N. R. Roberts, L. P. Potter, R. L. Stratton, H. C. Feffer, H. R. Dickey, W. F. Lowrance, Olin Coffman, Wilford Lawson, and R. N. Stewart.

Sabbath Observance—J. A. Bood, J. O. Maynard, W. T. Gover, P. V. D. Conway, L. R. Markwood, J. W. Santmiers, G. H. Echols, E. M. Glick, J. L. Henderson, S. R. Pritchett, W. M. Compston, C. L. Lenoir, A. A. P. Neel and Fuller Barnard.

District Conference Records—J. H. Whitte, W. L. Smith, C. W. Mark, W. D. Eye, William Stevens, G. C. Beery and R. K. Heydrick.

The reception of a number of communications from the offices of the general interests of the church was announced, and these were referred to the proper boards and committees, in most instances without reading.

Bishop A. W. Wilson, of Baltimore, senior member of the college of bishops, entered the conference room, and was welcomed by Bishop Kilgo.

Later in the session Bishop Wilson spoke to the conference and assured the members he never had lost interest in the conference and in the individual members.

He said further that he was more interested in the reports regarding the conversion of souls than in those regarding the building of churches. It is too often taken for granted that sinners will be saved, he said, but that this work is far too important to be taken for granted, and should have the most careful attention from every preacher.

A paper from the Roanoke District

Conference with reference to the erection of a home for retired members of the conference in need of a home was read, and was referred to a committee of three, to be appointed by the chair.

Answering minute question 5 "Who are readers?" Frederick W. Allison, a local preacher from the Moorefield district, was readmitted into the traveling connection of the conference. Question 6 was called, "Who are received by transfer from other conferences?" and the answer given was "none."

Question 7 was called, "Who are discontinued?" and on motion of W. H. Woolfe, presiding elder of the Roanoke District, W. J. Prout was discontinued.

F. J. Prettyman submitted the following paper, which was read to the conference: "A communication on the Randolph-Macon suit."

To the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in session at Staunton, Va., March 25, 1913.

"I greatly regret to report the fact that the agreement entered into between this conference and the trustees of Randolph-Macon College concerning the selection of trustees of said college has been called in question in the courts of the State of Virginia. In a bill of complaint brought in said courts, three members of this body are made co-defendants with the Board of Trustees, viz. F. J. Prettyman, T. T. Fishburn and J. H. Light. J. H. Light has been transferred to the Virginia Conference since the bill began."

Since I was named in this suit as a member of this conference, and probably because I was elected to represent the conference in certain conferences held with the trustees of Randolph-Macon College looking to a peaceful and satisfactory solution of a controversy without resorting to the civil courts, I have felt it to be my duty, and I believe that it would be the will of the conference, that I should take such steps as might be found necessary to protect the interests of the conference in said suit. I attended the first hearing of the case before Judge Chichester, at Fredericksburg, Va., at which time the case was taken up on a petition in chancery to enlarge and make permanent an injunction granted by the court to restrain the trustees from carrying out their agreement with the conference and the trustees from performing their part of the agreement. At this time the court continued the injunction, so far as it related to the acts of the trustees, but removed its operation in reference to the conference. It was ascertained at that time that it would be necessary in the further trial of the case upon its merits to secure the affidavits of many persons in various parts of the State, and that in securing this testimony, it was necessary that all of the parties to the suit should either be present in person or be represented by an attorney. After due consultation, I decided that it would be far less expensive and more satisfactory to secure the services of an attorney. Mr. A. W. Patterson, who is the attorney for the board of trustees, having in charge their case and who, because of his relation to said case, is conducting the examination of witnesses for the board, has been retained as my attorney. His fee will be a nominal one.

"I may further state that the first hearing of the case at Fredericksburg, Va., I consented, together with the representatives of the board of trustees, to have the case heard on its merits without further testimony, but the petitioners would not so agree. The case is now in process of trial."

"I have the honor to make the above report, and await the pleasure of the conference as to the future conduct of the case."

"Respectfully submitted,"

"F. J. PRETTYMAN"

This paper was referred to the conference Board of Education.

A communication from S. C. Hatcher, vice-president of Randolph-Macon College, was read to the conference announcing that Rev. D. H. Kern and Rev. H. H. Sherman had been elected members of the board of trustees of Randolph-Macon College, to fill the vacancies of the board of clerical members of the Baltimore Conference. This communication also was referred to the conference Board of Education.

AID JACKSON MONUMENT

Howitzer Battery to Take Active Part in Movement.

At a meeting of the Richmond Howitzer Battery, held at the Times-Dispatch building, it was unanimously resolved to make a personal subscription to the Jackson equestrian monument fund. The battery appointed Lieutenant John T. Wood receiver of the fund. References were made to the march taken several years ago by the battery in the Valley of Virginia over some of the marches and battlefields made famous by Stonewall Jackson. The president encouraging movement for erection of an equestrian monument to Jackson in Richmond originated with some of the officers and men of the Howitzer battery, a number of whom are taking an active part in the movement.

Vestry of Holy Trinity.

In the list of vestrymen of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, furnished to The Times-Dispatch following the election last Monday, the names of E. C. Mayo and C. A. Crawford were omitted. The vestry of this church is composed of the following: Thomas Atkinson, James M. Ball, P. H. Baskerville, E. A. Baughman, J. Sidney Davison, Dr. John S. Gleneden, W. George John B. Minor, W. Brydon Tennant, A. P. Wilmer, E. C. Mayo and C. A. Crawford.

Read This Rule Carefully

Commencing with the first publication of this rule, no contestant will be permitted to offer, or sell, The Times-Dispatch at any price lower than the regular contest subscription rate. When an affidavit is filed, and satisfactory proof furnished The Times-Dispatch that any candidate is soliciting subscriptions or votes, either in person, by mail, or through friends, and offering as an inducement a cash discount from the regular contest price of the paper, or any other inducement, such contestant will be declared ineligible to any prize whatever, provided such proof is submitted prior to the awarding of the prizes.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SECOND PERIOD IS NOW ON!

Ambitious Candidates Should Secure Every Possible Subscription During Present Vote Schedule

The next standing of the candidates will be published Sunday. Every day now seems more important than the day before. This is because you can now see the end of the second period less than two weeks away.

Only two more Saturdays, and then what a hustle and a bustle if you have not made the most of your time every day between now and then.

ON WITH THE GOOD WORK.

If you stand high among the contestants, then you must hang on to your position, and you can't do that by keeping still. If the whole line is moving along you must go at least as fast as the fastest to keep your place.

If you do not stand where you wish, remember it is not too late to improve your position very materially.

The prizes are never lost until they are won. At present they belong to you as much as they belong to any one, and it is a well-known fact that there are always many surprises at the close of a contest period.

Be one of these surprises. If you begin right away to hustle for votes there is no reason why you should not pass above many who now outrank you.

If you have permitted yourself to become discouraged it will make you feel pretty sore when you read the vote on which the prize you had hoped for was won.

You can't blame any one but yourself then. But it will be too late. Better by far take our warning in time and "make hay while the sun shines."

LACK OF CONFIDENCE.

While a groundless faith in one's own ability is deplorable and generally leads one into idle ways which end in disaster, yet there is even more danger in the reverse of this quality.

Lack of confidence in one's self is a leaky boat to set out in. It will swamp you. Never underestimate yourself. It is bad for you and bad in the effect it produces on your friends.

Of course, if they hear a man say, "Oh, I won't have the least trouble in coming out at the head of that bunch," they think, "What a foolish boaster!" and are disinclined to help him.

What inspires confidence is the attitude of the candidate who feels sure of winning if he works hard and gets all of his friends to stand by him. Let your friends know that you can accomplish nothing without them. Let each subscriber feel that his or her personal subscription may make the greatest difference in your standing at the close of the contest, and consequently in the value of the prize you will win.

ANOTHER POINT IN YOUR FAVOR.

It is well for you to remember that the number of opponents you must count on is much smaller than would appear from the last printed list. Most people have just about so much courage and endurance, and it is not very much after all.

Many whom you looked upon as formidable rivals will do little or nothing more on the contest. The first flush of their enthusiasm being over, they will lag behind and leave the way open for you.

Get right in and make the most of the places. It is going to surprise you greatly at the end to see what a small vote wins a fine prize.

GET EXTENSION OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Any further payment of six months on a subscription of six months already turned in on the contest on which votes have been issued is an "Extension" of that subscription. The contestant turning in the second payment of six months will receive the number of votes constituting the difference between the scheduled number of votes issued on the first payment of six months and the scheduled number of votes allowed for one year at the time the first payment was made. Contestants are entitled to votes under this rule on "Extensions" of subscriptions, whether the former payment, or payments, were given to themselves or to other contestants.

To insure proper credit on "Extensions," make a new subscription blank for the amount of money you are sending, and write on the subscription blank the length of the "Extension," as "Extended from six months to one year."

JOSEPH FIRST IN LIFE INSURANCE

Mrs. Potiphar's Affinity, Says Sills, Real Father of Business.

The father of the life insurance business, according to Neil D. Sills, president of the National Association of Life Underwriters, was none other than Joseph of Biblical fame, who, a good many centuries ago arranged and managed the first great life insurance company, when during the seven years of plenty he saved corn for the seven years of want.

Mr. Sills spoke to the students of John Marshall High School yesterday morning on the history and magnitude of the business of insuring life. His lecture was couched in popular language and gave his young listeners an interesting sketch of the business from the time the first modern company was founded in London in 1762, to the present day.

Modern industry, he said, has brought with it an increasing respect for the value of human life. In the beginning, he said, the gambler was the man who took the life insurance policy, but now insurance has become so stable that the man who refuses to take it is really the one who is gambling with human life.

The 240 legal reserve companies in this country, said Mr. Sills, paid last year of more than \$4,164,000,000, which is about four times the amount of the national debt. The companies paid out last year \$775,000,000. All branches of insurance combined, he said, exceed every financial activity except that of the combined railroads.

Early life insurance companies, it appears, had a wholesome dread of the precariousness of life in cities. The same fear extended to life in the South, which, it seems, was regarded by cultured New England as a semi-barbarous land.

"The first policy issued by one of these earlier companies," said Mr. Sills, "provided for an extra yearly charge in the event of the assured moving to the city of Washington, or any town or city containing 50,000 inhabitants, and the policy was null and void if without the consent of the company the assured traveled south

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reau, which will meet on April 2. Besides this subject there will be others dealing with the extension of the Richmond's trade influence in the territory which forms its natural field of operation.

Should the committee declare itself in favor of continuing the booster tour the expedition will be operated independently by local jobbers, bankers and manufacturers. The tour was inaugurated two years ago by The Times-Dispatch. At the conclusion of last year's trip it was announced by The Times-Dispatch that the enterprise had grown to proportions too large for the paper

to handle, and that it would therefore be taken care of by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Norman Here. George W. Norman, of the Pittsburgh Observer, a weekly Catholic newspaper, is in the city.

Marriage License. A marriage license was issued yesterday in the clerk's office of the Hustings Court to Albert Berry and George Kenner.

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